

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 26, 2006 has been carefully reviewed along with the references cited therein. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 36 and 37 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Robertson et al. (US 2004/012959). The Examiner also rejected claims 36 and 37 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuetz (DE 20119861) in view of Robertson et al. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3, 8, 10-13, and 15-35 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

In this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 36 without prejudice and have amended claim 37 so that it now depends from claim 30, which was found to be allowable by the Examiner. This claim amendment does not require the Examiner to perform a new search, nor does it raise issues of new matter. In view of the claim amendments, the subject application should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

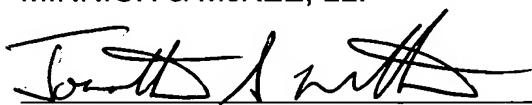
For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited. In any event, should the Examiner consider personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 26, 2006


Date


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
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